

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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R 170701Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 111

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 18171

BOMBAY 3126 FOLLOWS. SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 13 DEC 76.
BEING RPT FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 3126

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT IN
SUBJ: POPULAR GOVERNMENT FOR GUJARAT

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL GUJARATI PRESS SOURCES, THE FORMATION OF A
POPULAR GOVERNMENT IN GUJARAT, NOW SEEMS TO HAVE A TOP PRIORITY
IN NEW DELHI. THESE SOURCES SAY THAT NEW DELHI IS NOW SHOWING
MORE INTEREST IN FORMING A POPULAR GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE THAN
AT ANY TIME SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE IN MARCH
1976. THEY BELIEVE THAT NEW DELHI IS MOST LIKELY TO TAKE A
DECISION IN THE MATTER SOME TIME DURING THE CURRENT MONTH.

2. GUJARAT PRADESH CONGRESS-R COMMITTEE PRESIDENT HITENDRA DESAI'S
DEC 2 UNSCHEDULED AIR DASH TO NEW DELHI AND THE ROUND OF TALKS HE
HELD WITH MRS GANDHI AND HER SENIOR CABINET COLLEAGUES ARE
INDICATIVE OF NEW DELHI'S GROWING CONCERN TO END THE PRESIDENT'S
RULE IN GUJARAT SOON. AFTER RETURNING FROM NEW DELHI DESAI
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DISCUSSED "PARTY ORGANIZATIONAL" MATTERS WITH GUJARAT CONGRESS
LEGISLATURE PARTY LEADER MADHAVSINGH SOLANKI ON DEC 5. OUR SOURCES
CONSIDER THE MEETING TO HAVE HELPED RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS OVER THE FORMATION OF THE POPULAR GOVERN-
MENT. IN SPITE OF CONGRESS-R'S COMFORTABLE MAJORITY IN THE
ASSEMBLY THESE DIFFERENCES HAVE PREVENTED THE FORMATION OF

POPULAR GOVERNMENT IN GUJARAT.

3. THE SOURCES TRONGLY BELIEVE THAT NEW DELHI PROBABLY PREFERS
MADHAVSINGH SOLANKI TO LEAD THE GOVERNMENT AS HE REPORTEDLY ENJOYS
THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE CONGRESS-R LEGISLATORS. SINCE
HITENDRA DESAI IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE, A BY-
ELECTION WHICH NEW DELHI WISHES TO AVOID, WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD
WITHIN SIX MONTHS IF HE WERE TO LEAD THE GOVERNMENT. ONE SOURCE
BELIEVES THAT IF THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED SANJAY VISIT TO GUJARAT
IN JAN 1977 IS TO BE A GRAND SUCCESS CONGRESS-R WILL NEED TO FORM
A POPULAR GOVERNMENT IN GUJARAT DURING THIS MONTH.
COURTNEY

UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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